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INTO THE UNKNOWN

Exploring the terrifying world of poltergeists

THE DEVIL'S DOLL

Sinister toy hurls men across room

THE mysterious world of psychic powers fascinates us all but there is a sinister side . . . so terrifying even the experts are alarmed. In this week's investigation, we look at poltergeists and the ways paranormal powers can be used for frightening reasons.

By PETER WILSON

A RAG doll sits locked behind a glass door in the corner of a museum.

It looks like an ordinary toy. But behind Annabelle's innocent face lies terror. A world of poltergeists. A world of evil.

Annabelle has shattered once sceptical people. They now attest that she comes alive and possesses incredible strength that can hurl men across a room and slash flesh.

Psychic investigators believe an evil spirit has taken over Annabelle.

The rag doll is now in a museum at the home of one of the world's top psychic investigators, Ed Warren.

He and wife Lorraine have investigated hauntings all over the world for the past 40 years. Annabelle has caused them more alarm than any other psychic force.

The doll was owned by a nurse who contacted a medium after seeing the toy move its arms.

SHE said Annabelle was possessed by the spirit of a six-year-old girl who died in a car crash.

When the nurse's boyfriend mocked the doll's powers, something pushed him violently and seven ugly lashes appeared on his chest.

No-one could explain how he got his horrific wounds. Even after Annabelle was sent to Ed Warren it wreaked havoc on anyone who mocked it.

A priest's car mysterously left the road and crashed. He told Ed: "I saw the doll's face through the windscreen."

A policeman was so disturbed when he saw objects near the doll hurled around the room, he quit his job.

Ed says: "There are things in other dimensions which are terrifying and dangerous. I have seen them and they scare the heck out of me.

"They can lift heavy weights, slash, puncture, cause burns and throw a man across a room."

The fear of poltergeists drove John and Helen Costello to leave their home in Aspley, Nottingham, last year.

They went to court and demanded the council rehouse them.

They and their three daughters had to endure sinister noises echoing round the house, a guitar that played itself and a typewriter that clattered as though worked by an invisible hand.

THEY were told by a spiritualist there were five spirits in the home, one mischievous.

A priest blessed their house and the family. But the problem does not seem to have been entirely solved, according to the present occupant Jimmy Cotterill.

"The odd unexplained thing still happens," he said.

Demon spirit — psychic expert Ed Warren and wife Lorraine with the "possessed" doll Annabelle

Professor of the paranormal

PSYCHIC expert Professor Archie Roy from Glasgow University has been probing poltergeist cases for 20 years.

Prof Roy, president of the Scottish Society for Psychical Research, said: "The big puzzle about these entities is how they manage to lift heavy objects whereas people — even when they have trained for months to move things by thought power — find it difficult to move things the size of matchboxes or smaller."

Other experts are divided about poltergeists.

Poltergeists — Roy

Some believe evil spirits do exist while others say they are a product of dark, hidden powers within our own minds.

Deadly superpowers

FEARS are growing that Russia and America are using psychic and healing powers for sinister military purposes.

Reports reaching the States claim the USSR has spent millions researching the paranormal. The CIA has even heard that the Russians tried to control the thoughts of US politicians and hoped to disable the military by "willing" leaders to die.

Defectors have said Soviet experiments involving thought power stopped animals' hearts and caused pain to people 500 miles away. But American experiments are just as alarming. The Pentagon is believed to have recruited psychics to "spy" on Russian installations and read secret documents.

Another bizarre experiment involved attempts to contact dead Soviet leaders. The aim was to encourage the spirit world to influence living leaders with thoughts of peace.

It is believed that much of the paranormal work being conducted by some of the world's greatest experts at the Stanford Institute in California is now funded by the US military.

Katie's got the spirit

TV PERSONALITY Katie Boyle believes she has the power of healing and uses it to help animals.

She has been interested in the paranormal since seeing a ghost when she was a child in Italy.

And while she was staying in a Royal house in Britain, a poltergeist hurled an object across the room.

Another believer is DJ Pete Murray who hosts a radio series about the paranormal on LBC.

He said: "My father died when I was 12. Years later, there was this blinding light and I saw my father, just his head. He said: 'Don't worry, son, I'm not dead.'"

TELL US YOUR STORY

HAVE *you* had a brush with the unknown? We are conducting a survey into the Paranormal and You. Write telling us of your experiences to Room 354, Sunday Mirror, Holborn Circus, London EC1P 1DQ.

NEXT WEEK: Your brushes with the unknown

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